



Sloughs News

Autumn 2015



Volunteer Spotlight: Lynnea Shuck

Volunteer Lynnea Shuck was featured in an article by Bill O'Brian in the May/June 2015 issue of the USFWS newsletter Refuge Update, reprinted here. You can find the full issue and others at <http://www.fws.gov/refuges/refugeupdate/>. She is attending Harvard University this fall, and while we are sad to see her go, we wish her the best of luck in college!

Lynnea Shuck is extraordinary.

She has won a prestigious national award. She has been to the White House. She has volunteered at Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge for more than five years, leading habitat walks, outdoor lab experiments, festivals and other activities. She sees herself as a one-woman welcoming committee for the Refuge System.

And she just turned 18.

Her pet project is the Junior Refuge Ranger program, which exists at some refuges. She has reimagined it and hopes to expand it.

"I saw that there was a need for an ongoing, year-round program for young kids: elementary school ages 7 through 12. That's when I thought of the Junior Refuge Ranger program and how great it would be to connect all 560 refuges," says Shuck. She knew of the National Park Service's Junior Ranger program and thought "wildlife refuges really need something like this. Our commitment to conservation is something that every kid should know about."

With the help of visitor services manager Jennifer Heroux, environmental education specialist Genie Moore, San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society interpretive specialist Julie Kahrnoff, regional volunteer coordinator Derek Carr, and others, Shuck is asking refuges nationwide to embrace her idea.

"Lynnea is an exceptional girl, considering she is able to think beyond herself at such a young age," says Kahrnoff. "Her dedication and drive to grow the program has been a true inspiration."

The Junior Refuge Ranger program, as Shuck has retooled it, is designed to provide pre-teens with hands-on refuge

experiences. Shuck's goal is "to make taking care of nature feel like second nature" to youth.

Shuck's version of the program is in play at Don Edward San Francisco Bay Refuge and nearby San Pablo Bay Refuge – and it's designed to be replicated at other refuges. Shuck and refuge staff members have produced a how-to kit that includes an instruction manual, a template into which refuge-specific information can be dropped, an activity book template, a collectible-cards template, a certificate template and Don Edwards San Francisco Bay Refuge samples.

Already, Shuck says, 14 refuges in California, Nevada, New Mexico and Colorado have requested the how-to kit by e-mailing her at refugeranger@gmail.com. "The idea is to connect all the refuges through the program and have a uniform system where kids can earn rewards after they complete the program at a certain number of refuges," she says.

Shuck credits Don Edwards San Francisco Bay Refuge's majestic scenery, gorgeous sunsets and abundance of wildlife with instilling her love of nature. She credits refuge staff members with inspiring her to act on it. "They've mentored me, and they've really helped bring the Junior Refuge Ranger Program to life," she says. "From watching them in action and seeing their dedication, they have shown me what environmental stewardship is, and now I know what public service means."

For her efforts, Shuck received a 2014 Brower Youth Award from the Sierra Club. Named for the club's longtime executive director David Brower, the award honors 13- to 22-year-old environmental leaders from across the continent. Shuck also participated in a climate education and literacy roundtable at the White House in February with about 15 students from around the nation. One thing she told the roundtable was "our national wildlife refuges are the perfect place to make science real and to have hands-on activities that get kids excited about the environment."

What's next for Shuck – beyond the Junior Refuge Ranger program? She plans to major in environmental policy in college. And after that? "I really admire Secretary Sally Jewell," she says. "I aspire to become Secretary of the Interior one day."



Marsh-In Camp: Fun with Feathers, Fins, and Fangs!

By Carolyn Woods, Environmental Education Intern and Camp Coordinator

A big thank-you to refuge staff and volunteers for another successful Marsh-In Summer Camp! Sixty-five campers spent the first week of August at the Environmental Education Center learning about habitats at the refuge and the plants and animals that call Don Edwards home.

Tia Glagolev's teenage Habitat Heroes provided vital assistance with supervising campers and leading activities all week long. All the Habitat Heroes did an excellent job getting to know the campers and guiding them through games, crafts, nature hikes and more! Summer camp wouldn't be possible without their energy and enthusiasm.

At camp this year we also had guests from the Marine Science Institute (who brought a live shark!) and Wildlife

Services—the campers were fascinated by Brian and Tony's trapping demo on Mammal Day. Interns Leigh Gay, Robyn Boothby, and Jackie Olivera also assisted with camp preparation, clean up, and leading activities. They taught the campers about the refuge and also had an opportunity to learn about what it takes to run a successful summer camp!

Thank you also to Genie Moore and Tia Glagolev, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Environmental Education Specialists; Aja Yee, Environmental Education Specialist and Julie Kahrnoff, Interpretive Specialist for the San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society. With their guidance and assistance I had the help I needed to make Marsh-In Camp run smoothly for everyone. It was hard work but worth every minute!



Led by a Habitat Hero, campers look for American avocets and black-necked stilts on the boardwalk during Bird Day.



Habitat Heroes Class of 2015



A big CAMP CHEER for Ken Roux!

Ken Roux has served as the Summer Camp Safety Officer for the Marsh-In Summer Camp and Habitat Heroes Camp for the fourth year in a row! The EE Team is thankful to Ken's continued support of the summer camp program and the overnight and evening programs at the EEC. Ken is responsible for safely checking in and out the campers each day, ensuring all campers and Habitat Heroes are engaged and safe, assisting with minor first aid, staying up ALL NIGHT and roving the EEC grounds to ensure our safety during the night. He communicated on an hourly basis with Officer Navarro who was stationed at the front gate all night long. Three cheers for Ken!

Sincerely, Genie, Tia, Julie, Aja, Carolyn and Leigh :)

South Bay Shoreline Project

At the end of May Refuge Complex Project Leader Anne Morkill and South Bay Salt Pond Executive Manager John Bourgeois led volunteers on a walk and talk about the South Bay Shoreline Project. The project is in collaboration with US Army Corps of Engineers, Santa Clara Valley Water District and the State Coastal Conservancy to create a flood control levee in Alviso (adjacent to the Environmental Education Center), reconfigure trails and connect them to the Bay Trail, and more. In case you missed it, here are some useful resources discussed during the program.



<http://www.southbayshoreline.org>



<http://www.southbayrestoration.org>

12th Biennial State of the San Francisco Estuary Conference

September 17-18, 2015

Oakland, California

<http://www.sfestuary.org/soe>

Every two years, the Partnership brings a focus on the management and ecological health of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary. The State of the Estuary Conference showcases the latest information about the Estuary's changing watersheds, impacts from major stressors, recovery programs for species and habitats, and emerging challenges.

Biennial Science Symposium — *Adaptive Management in Action*

Thursday, October 22, 2015

Computer History Museum, Mountain View, CA.

<http://www.southbayrestoration.org/science/2015symposium/index.html>

Fremont Visitor Center News

**Now offering,
Volunteer Orientation
in Fremont!**

Visitor Center
October 10, 2015
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

If you are enjoying learning about what a National Wildlife Refuge is, consider becoming a refuge volunteer. In this volunteer orientation, you will learn the mission and goals of the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex, its parent agency U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and volunteer positions currently open.

Presented by Volunteer Coordinator
Paul Mueller.

Potential Opportunities

- Visitor Center Information Desk —
- Native Plants Nursery —
- Trail and Vegetation Maintenance —
- Citizen Science —

Closed on Tuesdays

Beginning September 1, the Visitor Center will be closed on Tuesdays. The new hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 10 am to 5 pm.

Volunteer Opportunities at the EEC:

Volunteer Requirements

- You must attend a volunteer orientation
- You must attend the scheduled trainings
- You must meet the age requirements for the program
- Volunteer Applications provided at Orientation

Restoration Project Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to work on the EEC's ecotone habitat restoration project. In the fall and winter volunteers plant natives, and in the spring and summer volunteers pull various invasive species to ensure that the native plants have a chance to thrive!

Training: Volunteer orientation and on-the-job training

Additional Requirements:

Individuals and groups of all ages are welcome who can do physical work, primarily outdoors

Hours: Tuesday, 9:30 am – 2:00 pm

Weekend Information Desk

Volunteers are needed to answer visitor questions, answer phones, and check out our discovery packs and binoculars to interested visitors.

Training: Volunteer Orientation and a one hour information desk training

Additional Requirements: Two half days per month for a six-month commitment

Hours: Shifts are from 10:00 am – 1:30 pm and 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm on Saturdays and Sundays as needed

Citizen Scientists Plant and Bird Monitoring program

Help us monitor our native plants' life phases and observe the birds in our restoration site to contribute to the national monitoring networks.

Training: On-the job-training

Additional Requirements: Ages 15 and up

Hours: Flexible

Interpretive Program Volunteers

Come help out with Saturday and Sunday interpretive programs, or present one of your very own. We offer a wide variety of programs (see our Weekend Program Flyer) and are always looking for new ideas and faces to share our mission of wildlife conservation and pollution prevention.

Training: Volunteer orientation, attend three weekend programs of your choice and one interpretive guide training class

Additional Requirements: One shift a quarter for a one year commitment

Hours: Weekends

Field Trip Docents

The EEC offers two environmental education programs: Wetland Round up (1st-5th) and Living Wetlands (5th-12th). Docents will gain experience in environmental education and public speaking, and will be responsible for managing and leading groups of students through educational activities.

Training: Volunteer Orientation and four week training course, one half day per week

Additional Requirements: Volunteer season is from September to mid-June. Two full days per month for a six-month commitment.

Hours: Programs are on an as-needed basis, generally Mondays-Thursdays, 9:30 am – 1:30 pm.

EEC Volunteer Orientation Dates

If you have an interest in wildlife and their conservation, enjoy working with people, and are enthusiastic and dependable, the Environmental Education Center's Volunteer Program is for you! As a volunteer, you'll receive on-the-job training from staff and other volunteers in the project area you choose.

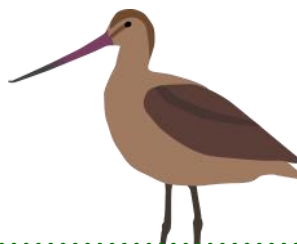
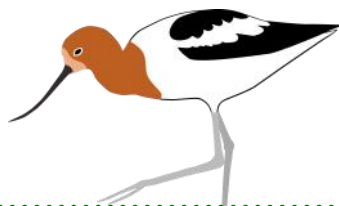
Volunteer orientations meet in the auditorium of the Environmental Education Center in Alviso from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm.

Saturday, September 12th

Tuesday, September 22nd

Tuesday, October 6th

Sunday, November 25th



Training Opportunities

These training opportunities are open to all San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex Volunteers.

Please register online with the link provided.

Team Citizen Scientists

**Environmental Education Center
Alviso**

Tuesday, Sept 26, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Become a citizen scientist! Are you interested in plants and want to learn about native plant monitoring and bird monitoring at the EEC? We'll go out in the field and learn firsthand the effects of restoration and climate change in the life cycle of plants and animals. Ages nine and up.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.

RSVP: <http://volcseec.eventbrite.com>

Pescadero Marsh Walk

Pescadero Marsh Nature Preserve

Tuesday, Sept 29, 10:00 am – 11:30 am

The 243-acre Pescadero Marsh Natural Preserve, a part of Pescadero State Beach, includes the only extensive wetland along the coast of the San Francisco peninsula. The preserve includes a complex of several habitats—a tidal estuary, freshwater marsh, brackish water marsh, dense riparian woods, and northern coastal scrub. It is an important wintering ground for waterfowl on the Pacific flyway. Bring your binoculars to catch a glance at the Great Blue Heron rookery, and bring your lunch to eat at the beach afterwards! Registered participants will be notified about carpool options.

RSVP at:

<http://pescaderomarshwalk.eventbrite.com>

Treated Wastewater

Wets the Marsh!

San Jose-Santa Clara

Regional Wastewater Facility

Tuesday, Oct 27, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Facility Wastewater Compliance Manager, Jim Ervin, will provide a multi-media presentation describing the fish, the birds, and food web that supports them in Artesian Slough and the surrounding restored salt ponds. Every day 100 million gallons of sewage flows into the facility, and roughly 90 million gallons of clean water flows out to the marshes. How clean? You be the judge! Jim has monitored the quality of treated wastewater that flows from the San Jose-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility for almost 25 years. Most recently, this monitoring has grown to include assessments of all the critters living downstream. The presentation will be followed by a short tour of the wastewater treatment facility and its outfall into Artesian Slough.

RSVP: <http://facilitytour.eventbrite.com>

Salt Pond Docent Training

Environmental Education Center

Alviso

Saturday, Nov 14, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Want to become a volunteer, or update your training? Come to a Salt Pond Restoration Docent Volunteer Training class, where Park Ranger Joseph Garcia will teach you the volunteer process and what new changes are taking place within the park. For more information call 510-792-0222 ext. 141

RSVP at:

<http://spdocent.eventbrite.com>

Shark Day is coming up, and we're looking for volunteers!
If interested contact Julie Kahrnoff at 408-262-5513 ext. 104
or julie.kahrnoff@sfbws.com by October 1.

Shark Day

Saturday, October 17th 12:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.

We're going to need a bigger refuge...

*Because the sharks
are coming!!*

**Join us for a
FREE event!**

Featuring:

- S.J. Sharkie
- Live leopard sharks
- Zander's Magic Show
- Nature walks
- Crafts
- And more!!

Where: Don Edwards

San Francisco Bay

National Wildlife Refuge

Environmental Education Center

Address: 1751 Grand Blvd, San Jose, CA 95002

For questions, call 408-262-5513 and for more information visit
http://www.fws.gov/refuge/don_edwards_san_francisco_bay/

Shark Day is sponsored by:



Photo Corner



Ridgway's Rail spotted in July just off the LaRiviere Marsh trail

Nesting season brought many sightings of young birds, including three Barn Swallows (right) and two Mourning Doves (below)

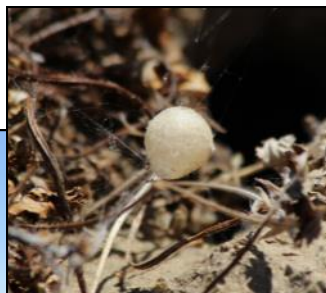


Female Anna's Hummingbird showing why this plant is known as Hummingbird Sage

California Sea Lion basking just off the Dumbarton Fishing Pier



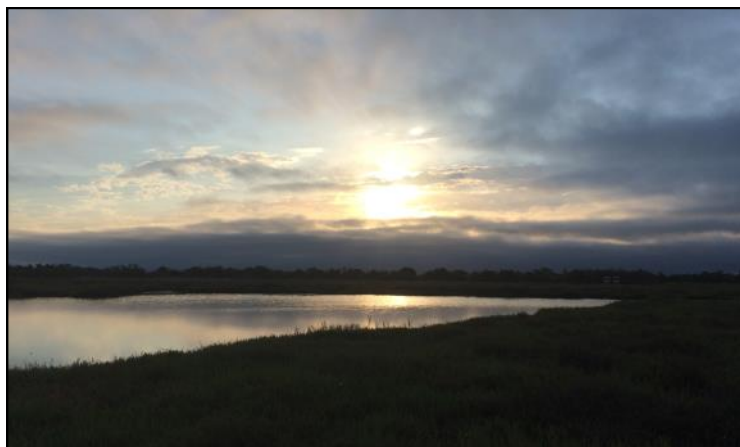
Volunteers at the Antioch Dunes BioBlitz on July 25 observe a spider sac, pictured at right



Green fig beetle, after escaping from a spiderweb



Sunrise at San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge, photographed during Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse surveys



Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Coastal Cleanup Day

Dumbarton Fishing Pier Parking Lot • Marshlands Rd, Fremont

Saturday, September 19, 2015

8:30 am – 12:00 pm

Do you want to help wildlife and the environment? Join thousands of people around the world for International Coastal Cleanup Day. At Don Edwards SF Bay NWR you can remove invasive weeds or pick up trash along the parking lot and trails.



We'll supply plastic gloves (or bring your own) and trash and recycling bags. You supply energy, sturdy shoes, sun protection, and clothes you don't mind getting dirty. Bring a reusable water bottle.

Volunteers can choose to be shuttled to areas along the Shoreline Trail to reach areas farther away.

For more information, call 510-792-0222 ext. 361.

No reservations necessary.

Children under age 18 must have parental approval. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. To expedite the registration process, log on to http://www.fws.gov/refuge/don_edwards_san_francisco_bay to download the forms and bring to the registration table. Forms are also available at the registration table.



The Sloughs News was edited by Robyn Boothby with Laura Mello. Contributions came from Bill O'Brian, Julie Kahrnoff, Genie Moore, Paul Mueller, and Carolyn Woods.

You too can become a contributor. Contact Paul Mueller (510) 792-0222 ext. 361, Paul_Mueller@fws.gov.